



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT MARCH 21, 2016

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

TOWN COMMITTEES

Currently there are openings on the following: (1) Council on Aging Board, (1) Trust Fund Commission and (1) Conservation Commission. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

BUDGET

Have received the assessment from Monty Tech and with 2 fewer students our total is \$445,572 which is \$18,000 less than last year. The total increase in budget for Monty Tech is .55%.

Karen Murphy and I met with Sherry Kersey and Gary Mazzola on the AWRSD budget deficit. With negotiations ongoing, its effect on the budget is still undetermined. I will be asking the Board to accept Section 21-23 of MGL 32b regarding Health Insurance Plan design. Notification of the vote will be sent to all bargaining groups.

Capital Planning still needs to meet to finalize the FY17 Capital requests. I have reached out to the AWRSD for their Capital Plan so that it can be reviewed.

Kevin Flynn who used to work for MRPC has reached out and is looking for an agreement where he will look for and write grant applications for us on a retainer basis. His fee is \$2,400 annually and will cover one grant submission.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Met several times regarding current and proposed projects.

WATER & SEWER

Steve Nims and I met with the Joint Water Authority to review the contract for Veolia. After discussions about whether we wanted to look to take over the operation of the plant. It was determined not at this time and they entered into a five year contract. Next contract will need to rebid.

I also have been in discussion with the Winchendon Town Manager about taking over ownership of the Sherbet Road water line. Currently it is owned by Winchendon. We would take over ownership and Winchendon would reimburse for the cost of installing a new line. They would be billed off a new meter at the town line area. There are currently over three hundred water users billed off this same line.

I am requesting that the Board of Selectmen vote that effective July 1, 2016 they resume their responsibility as Water and Sewer Commissioners. The current Commissioners whose terms end this fiscal year will simply not be reappointed. This has been a long time in the making. Back in 1997 Charlie Packard wrote that the business of the Water & Sewer Commissioners could no longer be properly managed in meetings that happen once a month in 2 hours and needed to be run like a business.

MPO

Kyle Johnson is running for the position as sub-region 2 representative each of the five communities in our district has the opportunity for a selectman to volunteer to represent your sub-region at the Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Those that have volunteered, along with town administrators and managers, will be invited to attend a meeting for Sub regions 1 & 2 which will be held on Thursday March 24th at the Old Mill Restaurant in Westminster.